

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Several high-ranking members of the Communist Party of Iraq have left Baghdad (date unspecified). Sharif al-Shaykh<sup>1</sup> has gone to Basra, and Muhsin 'Ali al-Ayyub has gone to Amara via Basra. 'Umar 'Abdullah,<sup>2</sup> Razuq Tallu, and Salih Bahr al-'Ulam<sup>3</sup> have left Baghdad for various (unknown) places.
2. There are two reasons for this exodus from Baghdad:
  - a. To study the Party's organization and strength in order to determine its ability to act<sup>4</sup> in the event that martial law is suspended. The Party expects an early end to martial law because the causes which brought it into force have been removed, and because the people, the press, and the leftist elements in Parliament are all pressing for its termination.
  - b. Party leaders are expecting to be tried, in absentia, for their participation in the Baghdad riots of November 1952.<sup>5</sup> They are awaiting the results of the trials in order to determine whether their sentences will be light or heavy. Informant states that, if the sentences are heavy, the Party leaders will set up a "special program" for future action.<sup>6</sup>
3. Kazim Jawad Kazim has been given primary responsibility for Party organization in Baghdad during the temporary absence of Party leaders. Still in Baghdad are the organizers of branches and cells and leading members of front groups such as the Union of Youth and the Union of Students. The press which prints the al-Qa'ida and the al-Shabab papers will continue to function, receiving material for printing by way of secret Party letters.

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SECRET [REDACTED]

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25X1 [REDACTED] Comments

- 25X1 2. [REDACTED] Abdullah was in Kirkuk, having become the "Responsible" for the Kurdish Branch of the Iraqi Communist Party. [REDACTED] Baha-al-Din Nuri was also in northern Iraq supervising Party work among the Kurds.
- 25X1 3. Presumably Muhammad Salih Bahr al-'Ulum, although there is a Salih Bahr al-'Ulum who is a lawyer and a member of the 'Umma Socialist Party.
- 25X1 4. [REDACTED] the word "act" may mean anything from a propaganda campaign to another series of riots such as those which took place in November 1952.
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
6. The "special program" may well be a program of organization rather than one of action. If Party leaders are forced to remain in hiding in the Liwas, a considerable amount of organizational reshaping will become necessary.

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SECRET [REDACTED]